In the Claims

Please cancel claims 10-19 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter in a continuing application. Please amend claims 1 and 2; and add claims 20-26 as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of assembling a cable routing system comprising the steps of:

providing first and second ~~spaced-apart~~ U-shaped end members, the end members being spaced apart a fixed distance;

providing a telescoping U-shaped trough with first and second ~~slideable~~ trough sections ~~positioned~~ , the first and second trough sections being in sliding contact with one another;

positioning the telescoping U-shaped trough between the first and second end members; and

connecting the first and second trough sections to the respective first and second end members, wherein the first and second trough sections remain freely slideable upon disconnecting at least one of the first and second trough sections from the respective first and second end members.

2. **(Currently Amended)** A method of assembling a cable routing system comprising the steps of:

providing first and second ~~spaced-apart~~ end members, the end members being spaced apart a fixed distance;

providing a telescoping cable trough with first and second ~~slideable~~ trough sections ~~positioned~~ , the first and second trough sections being in sliding contact with one another;

positioning the telescoping cable trough between the first and second end members; and

selectively connecting the first trough section to either one of the first and second end members, and connecting the second trough section to the other of the first and second end members;

wherein the first and second trough sections remain freely slideable upon disconnecting at least one of the first and second trough sections from the respective first and second end members.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of selectively connecting the first and second trough sections to the first and second ends members includes connecting the first trough section to the first end member.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of selectively connecting the first and second trough sections to the first and second ends members includes connecting the first trough section to the second end member.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of providing a telescoping cable trough includes providing a telescoping cable trough with first and second slideable trough sections having substantially the same coupling profile for selectively coupling one of the first and second trough sections to either of the first and second end members.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, further including sliding the trough sections relative to one another to fit between the first and second end members.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further including engaging flanges of the second trough section with slots formed in the first trough section and sliding the trough sections relative to one another.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, further including sliding the trough sections relative to one another until a slot and tab connection of the telescoping cable trough stops further sliding movement.

9. (Original) The method of claim 2, further including varying an overall length of the telescoping cable trough during assembly by:

a) retracting the telescoping cable trough to position the cable trough between the first and second end members; and

b) expanding the telescoping cable trough to connect the first and second sections to the first and second end members.

Claims 10-19 **(Cancelled)**

20. **(New)** A method of assembling a cable routing system comprising the steps of:

providing first and second cable trough members, each of the cable trough members having immovable ends;

providing a telescoping trough with first and second trough sections, the first and second trough sections being in sliding contact with one another;

positioning the telescoping trough between the immovable ends of the first and second cable trough members; and

connecting the first and second trough sections to the immovable ends of the first and second cable trough members, wherein the first and second trough sections remain freely slideable upon disconnecting at least one of the first and second trough sections from the respective immovable end of the first and second trough members.

21. **(New)** The method of claim 20, wherein the step of providing the telescoping trough includes providing a U-shaped telescoping trough.

22. **(New)** The method of claim 20, wherein the step of providing the telescoping trough includes providing a telescoping trough with first and second trough sections having substantially the same coupling profile for selectively coupling one of the first and second trough sections to either of the immovable ends of the first and second cable trough members.

23. **(New)** The method of claim 20, further including sliding the trough sections relative to one another to fit between the immovable ends of the first and second cable trough members.

24. **(New)** The method of claim 23, further including engaging flanges of the second trough section with slots formed in the first trough section and sliding the trough sections relative to one another.

25. (**New**) The method of claim 23, further including sliding the trough sections relative to one another until a slot and tab connection of the telescoping trough stops further sliding movement.

26. (**New**) The method of claim 20, further including varying an overall length of the telescoping trough during assembly by:

a) retracting the telescoping trough to position the telescoping trough between the immovable ends of the first and second cable trough members; and

b) expanding the telescoping trough to connect the first and second trough sections to the immovable ends of the first and second cable trough members.